



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

We are aware that even if there are wars that the media and politics call "forgotten conflicts" and "low intensity", in the heart of God they are very alive and present.

Among the armed conflicts defined in that way is that in Kivu, a region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whose misfortune seems to be dictated by its wealth, that is, by the raw materials present in the subsoil - primarily coltan - essential for our technology (smartphone, computer ...). The government and some armed rebel groups for years now have fought with violence for control of the mining areas. Very often women and children are victims of all kinds of cruelty. Added to this is the Ebola outbreak which has claimed an impressive number of victims and which now seems to have been drastically reduced just when the Covid 19 pandemic is reaching the African continent. It is not difficult to understand what destructive effects the spread of the pandemic could have on the African continent poorly equipped in terms of health care and infrastructure.

These are all reasons that lead us to raise our prayer on April 27 to the one God according to the different religious traditions, in the time and manner that each will choose, for the people of that vast area of the Congo.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, April 2020

Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop